

Executive Summary

The 2007 Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Annual Report to Congress (Report) presents the PCSRF activities and achievements accomplished from program inception in Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 to November 30, 2006. This Report provides a detailed account of program funding allocation to state and tribal grantees and annual performance as measured with the *Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund Performance Goals, Measures, and Reporting Framework* (Framework). The Framework was developed to track progress toward objectives for salmon recovery and conservation and to help track the effects of completed projects on salmon conservation and recovery.

The PCSRF was created by Congress in FY 2000 to address the need to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon, and steelhead, and their habitat in the states of Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, and Alaska. From FY 2000 to FY 2006 Congress has appropriated over \$590 million to the PCSRF. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) administers annual appropriations allocating PCSRF federal funds to the five states in the region as well as the Pacific Coast and Columbia River tribes. The states and tribal entities each have a Memorandum of Understanding with NMFS for distributing their PCSRF federal funds to projects for salmon and salmon habitat conservation and recovery. The PCSRF also leverages significant state-matching funds and in-kind contributions such as volunteer participation for salmon restoration projects.

Through the PCSRF, the states and tribes have invested in priority activities for salmon recovery identified through state and federal limiting factor assessments and conservation planning. Projects include salmon habitat protection and restoration; watershed and species assessments to determine limiting factors for salmon recovery; recovery plan development; salmon enhancement and supplementation; outreach, education, and technical assistance;



and research, monitoring, and evaluation of status and outcomes of recovery actions. Over 6,300 projects have been funded, with the majority involving habitat protection and restoration efforts.

Over the past few years, NMFS and the states and tribes worked to develop and implement the Framework to assess the PCSRF performance and progress on six short-, mid-, and long-term program goals. The goals of the Framework are outlined in Chapter 1. These goals support the recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESUs) and steelhead Distinct Population Segments (DPSs).

Goals

Long-term (more than 15 years)

- » Overall sustainability of Pacific salmon

Mid-term (5-15 years)

- » Improved status of ESA-listed salmon (naturally spawning populations increased)
- » Maintained healthy salmon populations

Short-term (less than 5 years)

- » Enhanced availability and quality of habitat
- » Improved management practices
- » Major habitat limiting factors addressed

Performance

From the inception of the PCSRF, data have been collected and measures developed to provide indicators of progress toward the program goals. Significant progress has been made in habitat protection and recovery since program inception. While some salmon populations are showing signs of improvement, it could be several salmon generations (3–5 years) before the effects of habitat changes through PCSRF will show as increasing salmon populations. Some indicators of performance through 2006 are as follows:

Mid-term

- » **16 ESA-listed salmon ESUs/DPSs** show stable or increased population trends

Short-term

- » More than **532,000 acres** of habitat improved or made available, including
 - » more than **401,000 acres** of habitat treated and restored
 - » more than **21,600 acres** of riparian
 - » more than **379,800 acres** of upland
 - » more than **9,000 acres** of wetland and estuarine habitat created
 - » more than **7,500 acres** of wetland
 - » more than **1,500 acres** of estuarine
 - » more than **17,000 acres** of wetland and estuarine treated
 - » more than **14,700 acres** of wetland
 - » more than **2,800 acres** of estuarine
 - » more than **104,000 acres** of habitat protected through acquisition, easement, or lease

- » Nearly **11,000 stream miles** improved or made accessible
 - » more than **5,000 miles** opened
 - » **4,200 miles** treated (riparian)
 - » **1,600 miles** treated (instream)
- » All fish harvests managed to conserve wild populations
- » **76 percent** of all habitat projects address major habitat limiting factors

Progress toward achieving goals outlined in the Framework is described in Chapter 2. Additional performance indicators for the six goals are further described and quantified in Exhibit 2-1. NMFS and the state and tribal grantees are also entering a second phase of performance reporting to develop a more rigorous monitoring and evaluation effort for program outcomes. This phase will encompass information sources beyond the PCSRF project reporting to better assess regional progress toward maintenance and sustainability of healthy salmon populations and their habitat.

Chapter 3 of this Report updates the status of recovery planning in each recovery domain and provides current trends and abundance for each ESA-listed salmon ESU and each steelhead DPS. The major factors limiting recovery for each ESU/DPS are highlighted and activities underway to address recovery needs in the respective recovery domains are described in this report. The grouping by recovery domain provides a regional focus on identifying recovery needs and implementing necessary actions for multiple ESUs/DPSs within an area.

Since program inception, the PCSRF has largely been used effectively by the states and tribes to recover declining salmon populations and improve deteriorated salmon habitat in streams and watersheds throughout the Pacific Coast region. Their activities are described in Chapter 4. Habitat conservation and restoration, improved knowledge and understanding of salmon viability, and prioritization of recovery actions are contributing to effective results. Through the PCSRF and efforts and contributions of state and tribal partners, progress is being made in the overall recovery of Pacific salmon. Chapter 5 summarizes the contributions and depicts the distribution of PCSRF projects. There are specific signs of improvement in salmon habitat and populations, but continued commitment and collaboration are required to achieve the overarching goal of full recovery and sustainability of Pacific salmon and steelhead.